

REMARKS

Claims 17 – 28 are pending in the application.

In the present amendment, claims 17 – 28 are amended. No new matter is added.

The Office Action objects to claims 17 and 20 for a number of informalities. Claims 17 and 20 are amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 17 and 20 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 24, 25 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 24 and 28 are amended to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24, 25 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Buchschacher et al. (6,052,295, hereinafter Buchschacher).

Applicant submits that for at least the following reasons, claims 17 and 18 are patentable over Buchschacher.

For example, claim 17, in part, requires:

“clock signal generating means for generating the clock signals, said control clock signal generating means keeping the clock signals in holding states during a holding period during operation, said holding states being equal to the states of the respective clock signals immediately before the holding state.”

(Emphasis added)

The Office Action, page 4, alleges that the Abstract of Buchschacher teaches the above claimed feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In the Abstract, Buchschacher discloses that the clock signal can be programmed to a part of the voltage multiplier to a non-active state. However, Buchschacher does not disclose any holding period during operation in their document. Furthermore, Buchschacher, Figs. 3 – 4, apparently show that the clock signal patterns (s1, d1 – sn, dn) over time. Each clock signal shown in Buchschacher appears to continue the same pattern in time indefinitely. Therefore, there is no specific time period that indicates the clock signals are in holding states. This clearly suggests that Buchschacher does not teach keeping the clock signals in holding states during a holding period during operation, as claimed.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Buchschacher does not teach or suggest the holding states equal to the states of the clock signals immediately before the holding state. This is because nothing can be found in Buchschacher that discusses or suggests the relationship of the holding states relative to the clock signals immediately before the operation enters the holding period. As discussed above, Buchschacher does not disclose any holding period and as a consequence, has nothing to say about the states of the clock signals immediately before the holding state. Each clock signal shown in Buchschacher appears to continue the same pattern in time indefinitely. Therefore, Buchschacher does not teach or suggest the holding states being equal to the states of the respective clock signals immediately before the holding state, as claimed.

In the Office Action, page 2, Response to Arguments section, the Office asserts that Buchschacher teaches that “The clock signals are supplied by the control circuit (CNTRLG , Fig. 1) which is a signal generating means and the clock signals are kept in holding state in a capacitor (see col 2 lines 54-60).” However, Applicant respectfully

submits that the cited figure and text also fail to discuss anything about the holding period or what the holding states are relative to the clock signals immediately before the operation enters the holding period. The claimed features: “keeping the clock signals in holding states during a holding period during operation” and “holding states being equal to the states of the respective clock signals immediately before the holding state” are simply missing from Buchschacher.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 17 is patentable over Buchschacher. Claim 18 is also patentable because at least it depends from claim 17 with further distinguishing features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office rejects claims 19 and 26 – 28 over Buchschacher in view of Lenssen et al. (6,986,151 B2, hereinafter Lenssen); claims 20 – 23 over Buchschacher in view of Lenssen and further in view of Dierschke et al. (5,567,976, hereinafter Dierschke); and claims 24 and 25 over Buchschacher in view of Lenssen and Dierschke and further in view of Miyagi et al. (5,955,687, hereinafter Miyagi).

Applicant submits that none of the secondary references cited above, either singly or in combination can cure the defects pointed out above with respect to Buchschacher. Therefore, claims 19 – 28 are patentable because at least they depend from claim 17, with each claim containing further distinguishing features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19 – 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

In the event there are any errors with respect to the fees for this response or any other papers related to this response, the Director is hereby given permission to charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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